



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 11/18/2004

**GAIN Report Number:** BK4026

## Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Biotechnology

### New Biotech Regulation

### 2004

**Approved by:**

Sarah Hanson  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Sanela Stanojcic

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Government for the first time adopted a food law that deals with import and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). According to the Law, import and marketing of GMOs will require a permit obtained from the national-level Food Agency. The Government will, within a period of 18 months, adopt detailed regulations pursuant to import and marketing of GMOs. Until that, no permits for import and marketing of biotech products will be issued.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1]  
[BK]

The Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)<sup>1</sup> Government (the Council of Ministers) adopted the national-level Food Law (BiH Official Gazette 50/04 dated 11/9/04) that deals for the first time with import and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMO). According to this Law, GM foods are considered under "the novel foods" and are mentioned as the following categories:

- Food and food ingredients which contain genetically modified organisms or are composed of such
- Food and food ingredients, excluding food additives (aromas and enzymes), produced from the GMO, but which do not contain any GMOs;

According to the provisions of this Law, for marketing of all novel foods for the first time in BiH, the applicant must obtain a permit from the BiH Food Agency<sup>2</sup>, based on previously obtained scientific opinions and approvals of relevant bodies (most likely the entities agricultural ministries and institutes, the ministries of health and the State Veterinary Office, depending on product type). The Council of Ministers, based on the Food Agency suggestion, shall, within the period of 18 months following the day of entering into force of this Law, adopt the regulations pursuant to import and marketing of novel foods/GMOs. The permits for placing on the market novel foods and feed that contains or consists of GMO shall not be issued until the adoption of the implementing regulations. The Law does not regulate labeling of GMOs and it will be most likely set by the regulations that will follow.

The Food Law also regulates the prohibition of novel food marketing if there are any scientific discrepancies regarding the harmful effect of novel foods on the people's health, especially food and food ingredients containing genetically modified organisms or consisting of them, if based on the scientific risk estimate it is established as harmful to the health of the people and in case of lack of the relevant scientific information and knowledge about the possible extent of the negative consequences to human life and health. Until that, import and marketing of GM foods to BiH will be forbidden.

Even before this Law was adopted, the local authorities have opposed imports of genetically modified food products. Three years ago, U.S. corn that contained GMOs was characterized as "undesirable" by the RS Ministry of Agriculture and therefore was not imported.

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is divided into two Entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (F BiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). The Entities are responsible for agricultural and food issues, and there is no national-level agricultural ministry/department. The responsibilities regarding the food laws are divided as well, and each Entity has its own laws and enforcement mechanisms. There have been some similarity between the two systems, but there has been no common food law yet at the national level until now.

<sup>2</sup> BiH Food Agency will be officially established by this Law within the next six months